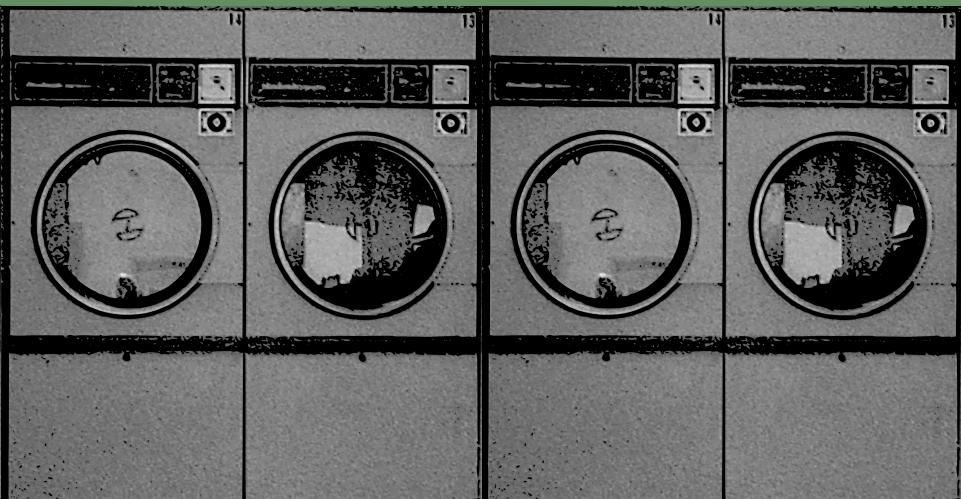


It's a Dry Heat

L. Elliott



This all began the weekend my neighbors couldn't be bothered to remove their clothes from the machines in the laundry room in a timely manner. In this case, 'timely' meant leaving their laundry in the machines overnight. Inside of every. Single. machine.

It was 6:00 a.m. on a Sunday, so I schlepped my dirty clothes to the car and drove to my local laundromat. With an hour to kill and a camera in my purse, it began.

Quickly, my affinity for laundromats got in the way of my love of back road drives to neighboring towns. But I eventually realized I could bring my laundry along and combine the two into an entirely new hobby: laundromat tourism.

These photos were the result.

COIN LAUNDRY
DROP OFF SERVICE

OPEN

Phone



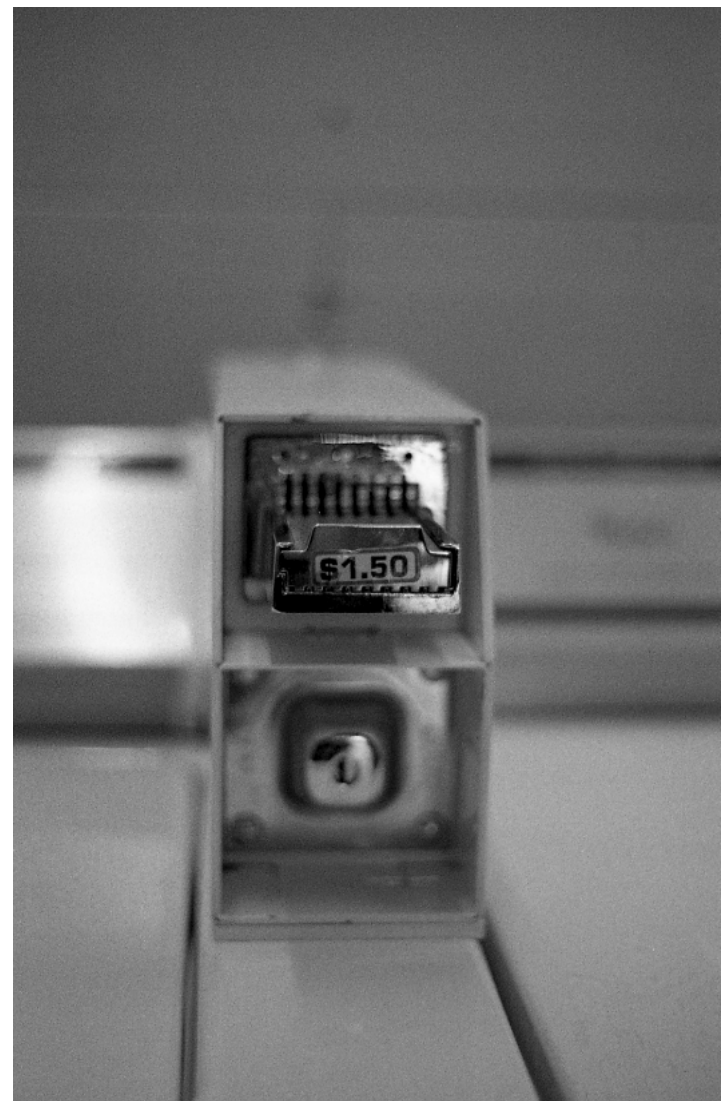
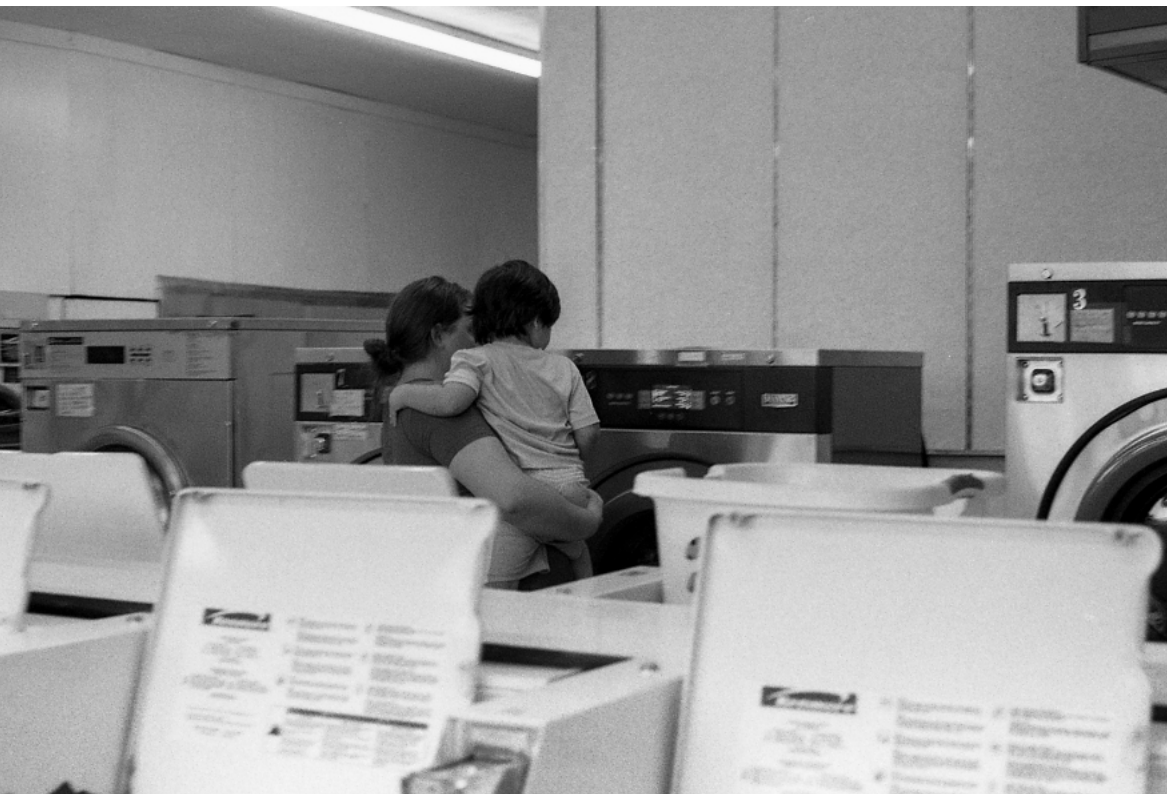










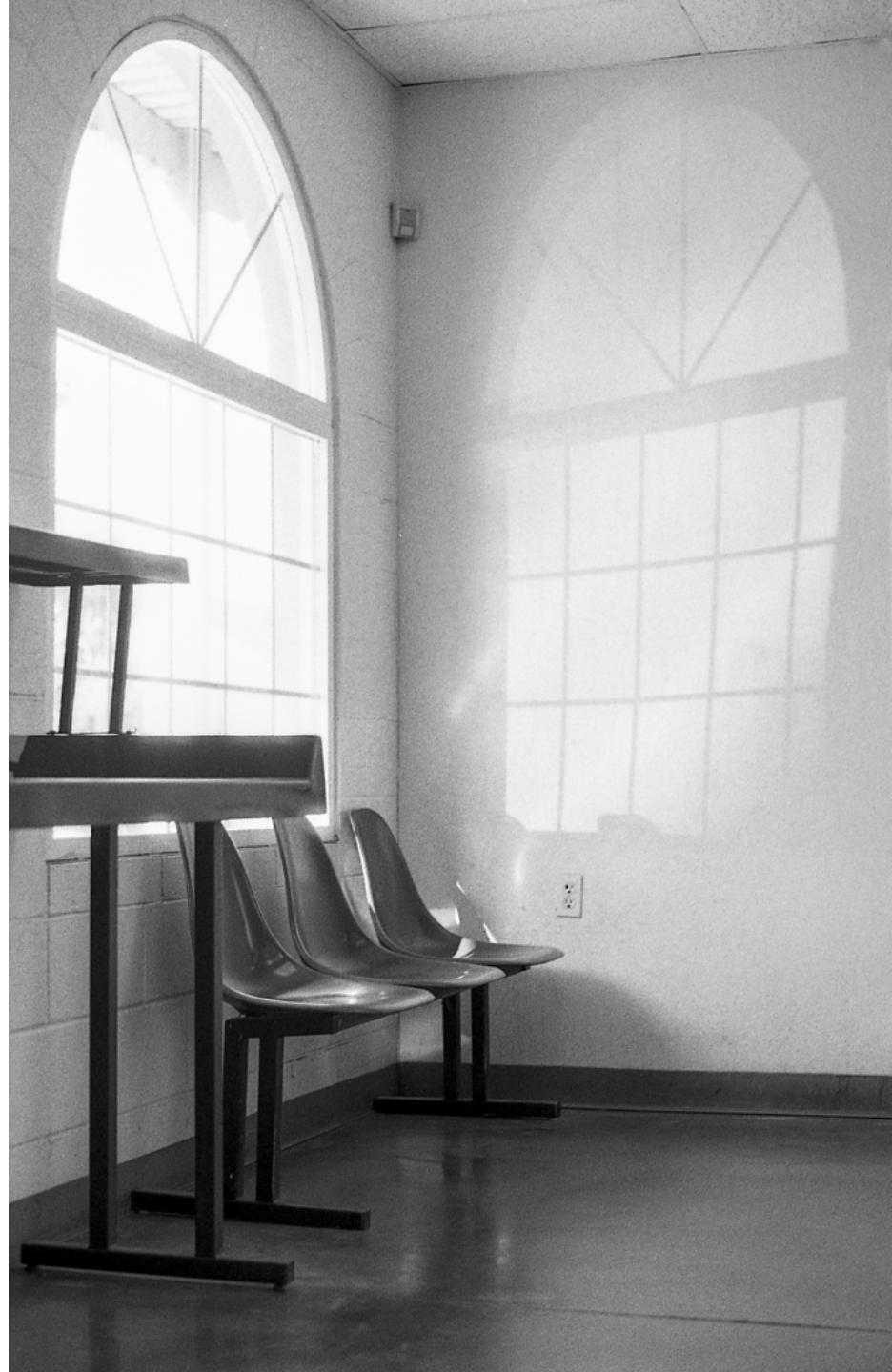














Observations from Laundromats

Laundromats create a captive audience. Almost no one chooses to go to a laundromat if a better alternative exists. And no one travels further than necessary for the same utilitarian set of washers and dryers unless their neighborhood laundromat is particularly terrible.

But if you visit one, you may learn:

1. Though it feels distinctly wrong, it isn't illegal to go to a laundromat in another town if you want to. (So long as you are actually doing laundry. Don't loiter or break other laws.)

2. Laundromats are solitary places, so bring an activity. Staring at your phone is one acceptable option, and many people opt to sit outside in their cars.

3. The early bird gets the dryer. You may think you're getting to the laundromat early, but someone will always be earlier.

4. Speak now, or forever hold your pee. Defying logic, many laundromats lack public restrooms. Plan accordingly.

5. Nowhere has quite as many signs as a laundromat - in both English y en Español. Laundromats in less affluent neighborhoods seem to have more signs. All so you know you are being heavily surveilled while folding your delicates.

6. I once watched a gentleman add no fewer than fifteen dryer sheets in with each load he put in the dryer. Don't be that guy.

7. Feel free to choose the laundry carrying technology that best suits your needs. Traditional laundry baskets don't stand out any more than duffle bags, wheeled totes, or even trash bags.

Laundromat Features & Amenities

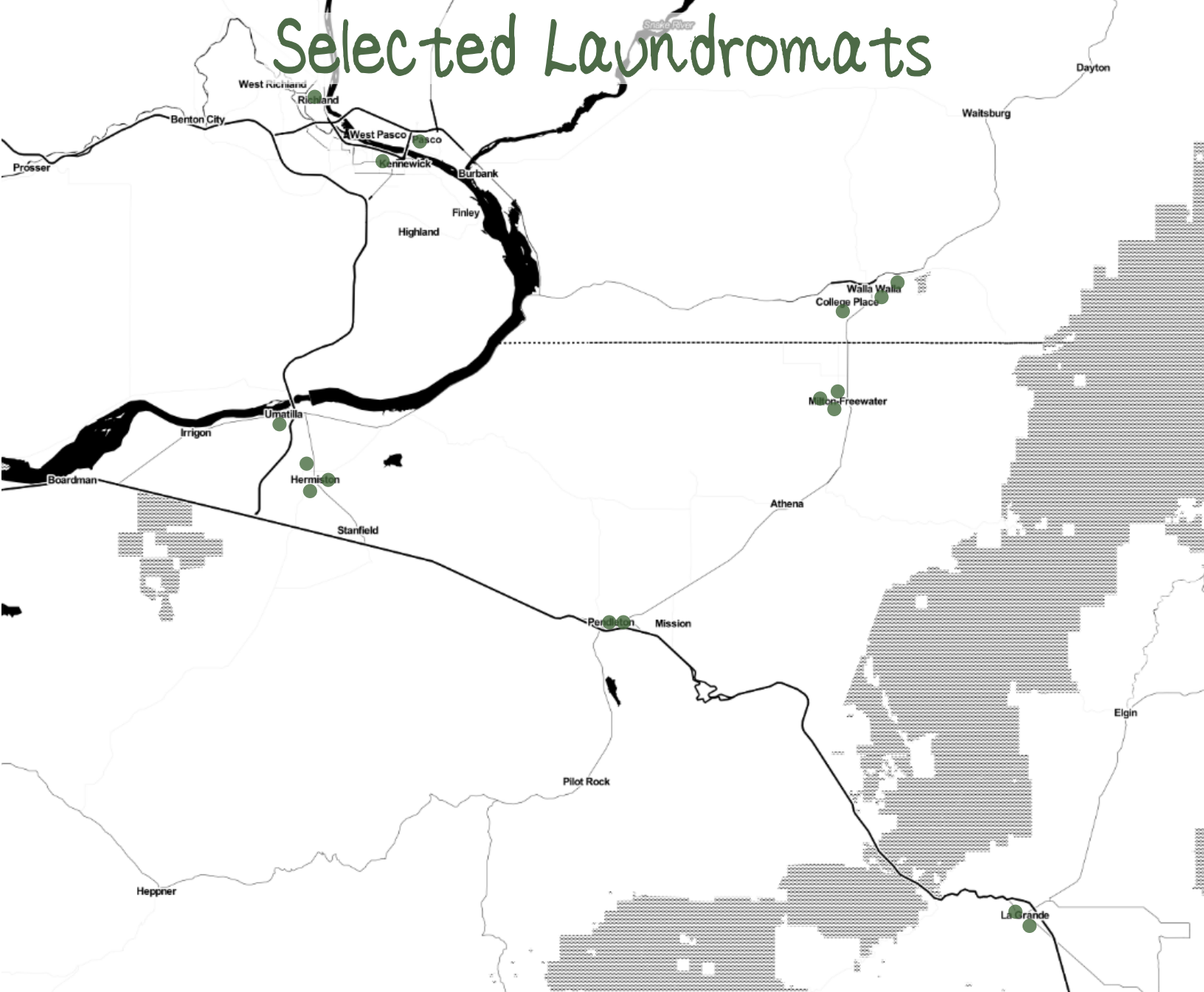
	Large Capacity Washers/Dryers	Change Machine	Vending Machines	Public Restroom	Dry Cleaning/Wash & Fold Services	Arcade Games/Kids' Area	TV/Entertainment	Carts
Speedy Wash Coin-Op Laundry	x	x	x	x				x
Home Town Cleaners	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Washtub Willy's Laundromat	x	x	x	x**				x
Drip 'n Dry Laundry	x	x						x
La Lavanderia	x	x	x	x**		x		x
Southgate Center Laundromat	x	x	x	x*	x			x
Andy's Laundromat	x	x	x	x		x		
Speed Wash Self Service Laundry	x	x	x	x				
Hermiston Main Street Laundry	x	x	x					x
Suds Yer Duds	x	x	x	x*	x	x	x	x
Washboard Laundry	x	x	x				x	x
Umatilla Speed Wash	x	x	x		x	x		x
Tri-Cities Cleaners & Laundromat	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yo's Wishy Washy	x	x	x		x			x
Sage'n Sand Laundry Land	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Blue Mountain Coin-op Laundry	x	x	x					x
Bubbles Laundry	x	x	x	x	x		x	x

* available during dry cleaning/wash & fold service hours

** there's a bathroom, but no public access

(Average price per load of laundry: \$3.25)

Selected Lavndromats



Laundromat Tourism Highlights

Yo's Wishy Washy

Pasco, WA | Everyday: 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$2.75

Beneath the well-worn, slightly grimy surface of this laundromat lays a treasure trove of texture and detail to observe while you wait for your laundry. It doesn't offer much beyond washer/dryers and soap dispensers, but it does the job.

Speed Wash Self-Service Laundry

Walla Walla, WA | Everyday: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$2.75

This laundromat offers a peaceful, quiet environment to contemplate life while your clothes tumble dry. The vintage aesthetic and beautiful natural light are paired with all the amenities one could ask for in a laundromat.

Bubbles Laundry

La Grande, OR | Everyday: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$3.25

This full-service laundromat offers an on-site attendant seven days a week who will wash, dry, fold, and even iron your clothes if that's what you need. Their wide selection of washer/dryer types and a pleasant atmosphere make this laundromat a joy to spend time in.

La Lavenderia

Milton-Freewater, OR | Everyday: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$4.75

Offering exclusively high-efficiency washers and dryers, this modern laundromat will have you in and out in no time. This is easily the most organized and pleasantly decorated laundromat in Eastern Oregon.

Speedy Wash Coin-Op Laundry

Pendleton, OR | Everyday: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$2.75

The pink and blue dryers in this laundromat ooze charm and set off the vintage vibes of this simple laundromat. The abundance of natural light and an off-the-beaten-path location make for visually inspiring environs to accompany your laundromat excursion.

Andy's Laundromat

Walla Walla, WA | Most Days: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$3.50

This laundromat closes Fridays at sunset through Saturday evenings to observe the Sabbath. The rest of the time, this laundromat combines the best of a calm laundromat experience with a neat and tidy space that provides everything necessary to do a load of laundry.

Washboard Laundry

Hermiston, OR | Everyday: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Price per load: \$2.75

This feels like the everyman's (or everywoman's) laundromat. The slightly dated decor doesn't take away from the cleanliness and coziness of the space. A wide selection of machine sizes makes it simple to tailor your laundry experience and get your clothes clean.

























5



25¢
PLEASE INSERT
1 QUARTER



4



25¢
PLEASE INSERT
1 QUARTER



3



25¢
PLEASE INSERT
1 QUARTER



75 LB DRYER
GREAT FOR
SLEEPING BAGS
AND BLANKETS
COBIJAS



WBS 7:00-10:00 PM

40 LB

50 LB

SOAP
BLEACH
SOFTENERS



About the Author:

Lora Elliott is a nerdy local government employee and compulsive crafter residing in Pendleton among the wheat fields of Eastern Oregon. She picked up a camera in 2020 during the early days of COVID-19 lockdowns, and couldn't put it down once she realized the magic of developing her own film. Her favorite things include drinking iced tea at her beloved local cafe, long drives on back roads, pictures of baby goats in sweaters, and sharing a wealth of terrible puns with the world.

All of these photos were taken during the summer of 2022 at seventeen different laundromats throughout Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington. Lora used her trusty Minolta X-370 and shot most photos on Kentmere 400 film. Many early mornings and iced americanos fueled this adventure.

Printing: 1

Date: 10/22/2022

∞ / 29

